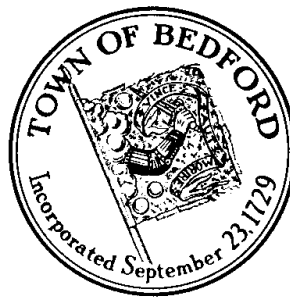


TOWN OF BEDFORD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730



BOARD OF HEALTH

Beatrice Brunkhorst, Co-Chair Anita Raj
Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair Sarah Thompson

Town Center
12 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730-2144
Phone: 781-275-6507
Fax: 781-687-6157

Heidi Porter, MPH, REHS/RS, Director of Public Health

October 10, 2016

RE: School-based Flu Clinic at Bedford High School

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians of Bedford High School Students:

The influenza virus is expected to be circulating in Massachusetts from October to April again this year. Influenza can cause serious illness and result in missed days of school as well as missed days of work. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.

In order to provide better service to our Bedford families with busy schedules and in an effort to increase the vaccination rate, the Bedford Board of Health is planning to host a school-based influenza vaccination clinic this year at the Bedford High School. The vaccination will be offered free of charge to any student regardless of the insurance status. However, insurance information will be required from those who have health insurance for reimbursement of the administration cost.

Navigate to the [BOH School-based Flu Clinic webpage](#) for the following Flu Clinic documents:

1. Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS);
2. 2016-2017 Registration and Insurance Information Form for Vaccination which includes Parent/Legal Guardian Consent; and,
3. Information sheets about the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).

To request and consent to vaccination for your child, please fill out the Registration Form with your child's information and answer the screening questions. These questions will be reviewed with your child on the date of the clinic to confirm your child is well and able to receive the flu vaccine.

- If you consent to the vaccination, a vaccine will be given to your child in school without your presence. If you do not return the required forms, the vaccination will not be given to your child.
- Only injectable vaccine (a flu shot) will be available this year based on the recommendation of the Federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- If you do not have insurance, your child can still get vaccinated. You must still sign and date the Registration Form to request and consent to vaccination of your child.
- The completed Registration Form along with a copy of the front of their health insurance card (if available) needs to be returned to the Bedford BOH by <date TBD>. The completed form can be mailed to the office of the Bedford BOH at 12 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730, scanned and e-mailed to BOH@Bedfordma.gov or dropped off at the School main office.

Letter to BHS Parents/Legal Guardians

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Massachusetts has an electronic database called the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) for all immunization records and your child's flu vaccination will be entered into this database. The MIIS fact sheet is available on the [BOH School-based Flu Clinic webpage](#) if you need more information on the MIIS system.

If you have any questions about the flu vaccine, the vaccination clinics or the MIIS, please do not hesitate to contact the Bedford Board of Health at 781-275-6507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Porter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Porter, MPH, REHS/RS
Director of Public Health